

Notice of Proposed Action

by the

State of Nevada

The Administrator of the Division of Environmental Protection gives notice that an application for renewal and a major modification of a Water Pollution Control Permit for the **Pipeline Project**, a mining facility, has been properly filed with the Division of Environmental Protection in Carson City. The applicant for renewal of **Permit NEV93109** is:

**Cortez Gold Mines
Pipeline Project
HC66 Box 1250
Crescent Valley, Nevada 89821-1250**

The facility, known as the Pipeline Project (distinct and separate from the Pipeline Infiltration Project, WPC Permit NEV95111), is located in portions of Sections 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, and 33, Township 28 North, Range 47 East, and Sections 4, 5, and 6, Township 27 North, Range 47 East, Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian, in Crescent Valley, approximately 30 air-miles southeast of the town of Battle Mountain, Lander County, Nevada.

The project consists of an open pit gold mine with associated dewatering system, waste rock dumps, heap leach pads, two (2) tailings impoundments, the carbon-in-leach (CIL) Mill 2 with a carbon-in-column (CIC) facility, Area 28 CIC facilities to process heap solution, pregnant solution ponds, barren solution ponds, a stormwater pond, and ancillary support facilities. A proposed Major Modification to the permit, the South Area Heap Leach Facility, to be constructed in separate phases from early 2002, includes additional heap leach pads, two (2) pregnant ponds, a barren pond, a stormwater pond, and a CIC recovery facility. Facilities are required to be designed, constructed, operated and closed without any discharge or release in excess of those standards established in regulation except for meteorological events which exceed the design storm event.

The Administrator is constrained to issue the Water Pollution Control Permit or to deny the application. The Administrator has made the tentative determination to issue the permit.

Persons wishing to comment upon the proposed permit, to recommend terms and conditions for consideration of incorporation into the permit, or who request a public hearing pursuant to the Nevada Administrative Code, NAC Chapter 445A, must submit their comments, objections, or

requests, no later than 5:00 PM on the 30th day following the date of publication of this notice (December 10, 2001) to:

Division of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation
Capitol Complex
333 W. Nye Lane, Room 138
Carson City, NV 89706-0851

All comments or objections received during the public notice period will be considered in the final determination regarding this permit. If the Division determines written comments or requests indicate a significant degree of public interest in this matter, the Administrator shall schedule a public hearing in accordance with the requirements of NAC 445A.405.

The permit and all application documents are on file at the Division and are available for public inspection and copying pursuant to NRS 445A.665. For more information, contact Miles Shaw at (775) 687-4670, extension 3125, toll free in Nevada (800) 992-0900, extension 4670, or visit our website at <http://ndep.state.nv.us/bmrr/bmrr01.html>